

Message Text

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14

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9055
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14999

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJ: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND LITERATURNAYA GAZETA: ROUND TWO

REF: MOSCOW 14549

1. VLADIMIR AL'BREKHT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SOVIET CHAPTER OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, TOLD US SEPT 22 THAT HIS CASE AGAINST LITERATURNAYA GAZETA (LITGAZ) HAD BEEN THROWN OUT BY THE COURT (SEE REFTEL). THE DECLARATION OF THE COURT STATED THAT LITGAZ HAD NOT CASE TO ANSWER SINCE IT HAD NOT SLANDERED AL'BREKHT UNDER THE TERMS OF ARTICLE 7 OF THE RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE. THE COURT ALSO QUESTIONED AL'BREKHT'S STANDING TO BRING A CASE ON BEHALF OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE HIS NAME WAS NOT QUOTED IN THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE.

2. AL'BREKHT SAID THAT HE NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD WIN A CASE AGAINST LITGAZ; NEVERTHELESS, HE IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT THE COURT, HAVING FIRST AGREED TO HEAR THE CASE, THREW IT OUT SO QUICKLY. HE NOTES WITH WRY AMUSEMENT THAT A SUBTLE PIECE OF LEGAL CHICANERY ON THE PART OF THE COURT MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO CONTINUE THE CASE FURTHER. THE DECLARATION OF THE COURT WHICH HE RECEIVED ON SEPTEMBER 22 IS DATED AUGUST 30 EVEN THOUGH THE LITGAZ ARTICLE APPEARED SEPTEMBER 1 AND THE SUIT, BROUGHT ON SEPTEMBER 13, WAS THROWN OUT ON
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SEPTEMBER 20. THE TEXT OF THE DOCUMENT CONTAINS SEVERAL

APPARENTLY DELIBERATE MISSPELLINGS AND PUNCTUATION MISTAKES AS WELL AS REPEATING SEVERAL WORDS, FOR EXAMPLE, "...WHICH WHICH..." THESE MISTAKES OF FORM, COMMENTS AL'BREKHT, HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO USE THE DOCUMENT FOR ANY OFFICIAL PURPOSE WHATEVER, SINCE EACH ORGANIZATION OR LEGAL AUTHORITY TO WHOM HE SHOWS IT RETURNS IT ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUCH A POORLY WRITTEN DOCUMENT CANNOT POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY AN OFFICIAL BODY.

3. AL'BREKHT SAYS THAT HE INTENDS SOON TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS BASED IN MOSCOW TO DISCUSS THE CASE AND IN PARTICULAR THE COURT'S VIOLATION OF ITS OWN LEGAL PROCEDURE.
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